

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

INCORPORATED

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO



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Executive Headquarters
West Hartford, Conn.

July 21, 1936

To: All A.R.R.L. Section Communications Managers
All Active Affiliated Radio Clubs

From: Communications Manager.

SUBJECTS: 1. A.R.R.L.'s CASE FOR AMATEUR RADIO PRESENTED TO F.C.C. IN MID JUNE
2. LATE WASHINGTON NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

*Note: Book is
IN CLUB
Records*

3. A.R.R.L. TESTIMONY-BOOK; PASS IT AROUND FREELY; TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT!!!

1. Since we can't make the personal visit we would like this summer for a friendly chat with you on amateur radio, we are writing briefly to give you all the latest news in the regulatory field, while it's hot. Under separate cover you have just received a current ORS/OPS bulletin. The lead article in this is an account of A.R.R.L.'s presentation for amateur radio before the F.C.C. in June.

The full case was planned to demonstrate strikingly our needs for 3500-4500 kcs. and 7000-7500 kcs., and to give the maximum protection for our u.h.f. territory, threatened by the near advent of television and other ultra high frequency allocations asked of the Commission.

With this letter I am sending you one of the books of testimony on the amateur case. This is exactly like the one made up for the individual Federal Communication Commissioners and their engineers. "The book" tells the whole case for amateur radio better than any words of mine. You will find it just full of justification for us hams, and arguments for our bands. We wish that every amateur could have a copy, but the cost makes it necessary to limit distribution to you leaders of amateurs, depending on you to tell everybody about the case itself --- or "show 'em the book"..it's better than words. A strong effective presentation of this testimony was made to the F.C.C.

2. After the hearing the Commission made no pronouncements but of course made studies of facts placed before it by all witnesses.

Meetings of the United States preparatory committees for the Cairo telecommunications conference were scheduled July 15th and 16th. Secretary Warner attended at the instruction of President Woodruff.

On July 16th, on behalf of A.R.R.L. he made formal request of the preparatory committee for extension of our amateur bands to 3500-4500 and 7000-7500 kcs., citing the reasons detailed at the June hearings. His motion was seconded and discussed but other members of the committee, consisting of government men and representatives of all major U.S.A. radio interests, regarded it as

impossible and unreasonable. It was stated impossible to move the government and fixed services now using the territory requested. Put to a vote, the committee turned down the amateur request flatly. Request of the broadcasters presented at the same meeting by Baldwin of N.A.B. (for 180-210 and 520-540 kcs.) was likewise voted down. Report of this is now before the whole ARRL Board, which is studying the situation to decide if and how any appeal should be made. Chances of success as all amateurs have known are modest enough. If our own government representatives refuse to back our request it becomes more difficult.

Definite progress was made in another request made at the same Cairo committee meetings. Although our F.C.C. call us a "service" the international regulations never have and it is important (in enabling our representatives to defend ourselves fully in future conferences with an overwhelming majority of unfriendly delegates present) to cover our standing on every front. In one of the committees studying definitions the possibility of proposing a definition for the amateur service became apparent. Warner got the favorable action of the committee in adopting the following definition:

"Amateur Service----the service of experimentation, self-training, and intercommunication carried on by amateur stations."

While some commercials in this country have challenged whether we were entitled to be called a service, our presentation in June was an adequate answer. We have had trouble from QRM in our bands from some countries where individual broadcasting (with no advertising or pecuniary compensation) has been considered permissible (by those governments) within our bands. If the above definition is accepted at the final full session of the U.S. Cairo preparatory committee it will appear in the U.S. proposals for other governments to consider for Cairo, and if adopted there, will then constitute grounds for excluding such illegitimate broadcasting from our bands on complaint of our government.

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F.C.C. expect to make Class-B exams possible (optional but not compulsory) at the special examining points where Class-A only is now given. F.C.C. send examiners to such cities only twice a year, but this would help.

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The June 30, 1936 F.C.C. report shows that amateur stations increased 2.8% over the last year, 46,850 from 45,561 or a gain of 1289. The first of those 3-year licenses will start to run out soon so that F.C.C.'s normal rate of expirations will start to operate again to reduce deadwood and prohibit artificial gains.

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For the 12 months March 1935 - February 1936, the F.C.C. states that it handled 2842 complaints of BCL's about amateur interference. While only about a quarter of all amateur operation is radiotelephone operation, 62% of the complaints were traceable to 'phone work, while telography accounted for 38%. The 160-meter 'phone complaints alone seem to have been more numerous than all the telograph complaints together (close to 1200). The percentage of the BCL-QRM from the different 'phone bands according to F.C.C. representatives at the June hearings,

divides like this:	160 m.....67%	(This is the data on the 62%
	75 m.....17%	traceable to 'phone. The
	20 m.....8%	F.C.C. has not stated how tho
	10 m.....1%	38% c.w. BCL-QRM divides by
	5 m.....7%	bands.)

Complaints are numerous and vociferous, the F.C.C. regard the situation as serious and requiring action, F.C.C. representatives also feel that the type of amateur work that goes on in this band, adjacent the broadcast band, is not any credit to amateur radio in many cases. If amateurs do not speedily correct this situation, it is pretty certain that the Commission will do something drastic. Our bulletins and QST have long discussed this subject. Last warnings and action by you fellows in the field may save the day. Please mention this matter at hamfests and meetings and put it up to all the fellows squarely. We are 100% earnest in our opinion in the ORS/OPS bulletin now in the mails that general amateur public opinion must work fast, and individuals get busy and get wise, or definite F.C.C. remedies that may hurt everybody are going to be applied.

Several possible changes have been tentatively advanced by different individuals as the ones to remedy this: (1) Take all 'phone out of 1715-2000 and use it only for c.w. Give unrestricted 'phone 3800-3900 and leave Class A 3900-4000. (2) Divide the 160-meter 'phone band "restricted" 1800-1900, "unrestricted" 1900-2000. (3) Let both 160 and 75 be Class A bands, putting Class B on 30 and 60 mc. (4) Swap Class A and unrestricted 'phone privileges between 160 and 75 so that Class B men use their 'phone on the higher frequency. Which solution, or what other remedy??????? If the complaint situation doesn't get any better the League can't hold things indefinitely. Somebody please name a solution so logical as to meet this need and satisfy everybody!

There are a number of academic considerations in the above suggestions, as one might expect. Idea (1) for example is based on the thought that we could make advantageous telegraph use of the band as now in 3500-3900 kcs. But one cannot regiment amateurs or make them use 160 meters in summer QRM. Even when DX on 160 is fine it has always required a disproportionate sales effort to get telegraphing hams to use 160. If one has no occupancy there is danger of losing kilocycles there, too. Ideas (2), (3) and (4) all are based on the thought that a Class A ham can be trusted to do better than a Class B in the kcs. next the broadcast band....but we seriously doubt the validity of the thought. It is our personal view that the percentages of complaints attributable to 160 and 75 meter bands respectively are due to the proximity of the frequencies (to the b/c band) much more than to the relative merits of Class A and B amateur operators. What the 160-meter newcomer lacks in knowledge, he usually makes up in cooperative effort. The experienced 75-meter ham on the other hand uses a higher average power level than does the average 160-meter 'phone station. If we agree that he handles it better, which is sometimes true there remains our observation from individual cases brought to our attention that some experienced men can be more arbitrary than newcomers with BCL's. While some 160 operators may use that band from license restriction rather than choice, there are many who stick by the band for years, even when they hold Class A tickets. Again, what solution???

Don't forget, to suggest at ham meetings and every opportunity (1) that all 'phone station operators get busy and check locally to see that no interference is occurring (2) if it is, then they should handle it to get the full good will of the public and cut off the stream of complaints to F.C.C. (3) Tell the gang to

write A.R.R.L. for our Communications Department interference circular, and follow Handbook suggestions to reduce or eliminate QRM.

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3. The A.R.R.L. Testimony at recent F.C.C. Hearings. With this letter you will receive "the book". All hams will be interested. Then too they should want to know all the arguments for ham radio, and there are good ones in the book. Please make it a point

- (a) To take the testimony book to meetings, to the club, etc.
- (b) To pass it around freely.
- (c) To tell others what a book of official testimony looks like.

One ham in a hundred or less knows anything about the "behind the scenes" work that is necessary in building up and presenting a formal case for amateur radio, through representatives with or without counsel. As a leader of amateur radio in your territory, you are the one to get the book. It is made available to help you in your aim to give amateurs the inside story of the case.

It's an expensive job to print up books of testimony. Since money must be conserved to pay other hearing expenses, and the similar preparation for intricate work in defense of our amateur needs (the Board plans to send two representatives to Bucharest next year, and is looking to Cairo beyond!) it is impractical to make up any large quantity of copies of evidence. Even though the copies are scarce, don't let this book remain idle on your bookshelf or desk! When we see you, and we hope to one of these days, we want to see the book, and hope to find it not spic and span but dog eared from much travel and passing around at ham meetings. Can we count on you? We know we can.

Thanks and 73,

Fraternally,

F. E. Handy. W1BDI

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F. E. Handy
ARRL Communications Manager.